

KERATAN AKHBAR



AKHBAR	:	THE MALAY MAIL		
TARIKH	:	30/5/2017	MUKA SURAT	: 18
JABATAN	:	UMUM		
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN		

Creating awareness of waste management in schools

WASTE materials such as used plastic bags, bottles, cans and paper have long been viewed as having a negative impact on the environment. However, what is often overlooked is the indifference of the public towards littering and proper waste management.

In a joint effort towards a more sustainable future, ExxonMobil Chemical Malaysia Sdn Bhd together with the Malaysian Plastics Manufacturers Association (MPMA) recently organised the 2017 Eco-Rangers programme to educate and create awareness on effective waste management among students.

Lending her support to this year's activities was Selangor's Environment Department director Siti Zaleha Ibrahim, who attended the launch.

Held at SMK Damansara Damai 1 in Petaling Jaya, a total of 360 primary and secondary students from six schools in Klang Valley participated in the programme to learn about effective waste management and other green initiatives. In its quest to encourage innovation and creativity on recycling, the programme demonstrated the various methods of waste management



Students make soap out of recycled cooking oil.

through hands-on activities and group projects such as making soap from recycled cooking oil.

The students also learned the basics

of waste management from collection, transportation and processing to recycling and disposal. The programme also highlighted recycling techniques through composting and anaerobic digestion as well as the process of upcycling in which waste materials were turned into flower craft, plastic bricks and stationery, among others.

"By introducing the Eco-Rangers programme in schools, we will be able to instill good waste management principles in our students from early on. In turn we hope this good habit will be passed on to their family and friends," said ExxonMobil Subsidiaries' public and government affairs general manager Sukman Mohamed.

To further cultivate better waste management habits among citizens, the government enacted ACT 672 in September 2015 that has put into effect the separation at source (SAS) programme to involve the public in segregating their organic and recyclable waste.

According to MPMA executive director S.T. Giam, the Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Ministry has reported a saving of RM7 million in operational costs for landfills management as a result of the SAS programme implementation in seven states between June to October 2016.